

of his great life. Hence, it is reasonable to conclude that the things he commanded were not the result of tyrannical caprice, but of beneficent love. They are means of attainment to a diviner life than can be reached without them. Their ablest apologetic is a setting forth of the kind of life they foster when rightly understood and practically applied.

Hudson, Iowa.

### UPROOTED, OR RESTING CONFIDENCE.

J. M. BOWMAN.

"Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up." Matt. 15: 18.

This saying of Jesus is another key to the secret place of his calm peace and strength in what, to human nature, seems very vexing and trying conditions.

I have so often been held in a spell of admiration of him at his firm restful power in the storm on Galilee, as it is told to us by Luke 8: 23-25. Sleeping quietly in a fearful storm! His sleeping marks him human. His calmness in the storm, in view of his concern for the safety of others, is surely a mark of kingship and divinity. Without any show of excitement he speaks and the white capped waves become smiling ripples and the howling winds are hushed into soft murmurs. Then coolly he turns to the frightened amazed disciples saying, "Where is your faith?" In the wind? Waves? Sea? Boat? "Where?" It seems almost impossible for humanity to do anything but look down and around. Jesus looks up and away.

When the disciples tell him that the Pharisees did not like his teaching he did not begin to argue, but sees their fault finding mischievous work in the light of the Father's eye and moves firmly on with his teaching.

Let us to our key. Jesus has been teaching in the land of Gennesaret and the people are much stirred by the wonders. So much so that they send to all parts of the plain for all the sick that they may have opportunity to touch his garment, for at this touching they were made perfectly whole. The Scribes and Pharisees come to warn the people against him feeling sure that they are being deceived and point out, as an evidence, that they are wrong for they failed to keep the traditions in that they sometimes ate without first washing their hands.

Jesus drops down to their quibbling and tries to teach them but they get mad. This eternal picking seems enough to throw one off from his purpose and make him feel that it is all useless effort to try to save people. The indifference, which is so wide spread, the difficulties that pile

up about us, and the oppositions and the seeming security of those who oppose themselves and the truth seem to settle down upon us like a smothering, blinding fog. But Jesus *knows* that all that is not planted by the Father shall be rooted up however flourishing and fruitful it may seem.

Here is the secret of his calm confidence. He *knows* that the Father still holds sway. That God is the God who prospers or brings to naught. There may be other planters and plantings, but only that which the Father hath planted shall escape being utterly rooted up. That which is of God's planting will be preserved, grow, bear fruit, and flourish though now it may be hard to distinguish it from the devil's planting. If we can but remember this and keep it before us we shall have one secret to the place of power for restful, persistent telling work. Look *away* from seeming failures and difficulties *up* to the Father.

We poor souls so often grieve and worry and fret away our vitality and time about those things which are wholly in the hands of God. Our worry counts for nothing. He will accomplish the work or overthrow it. If our work is of God's planting we may be strong with unswerving confidence. With this steady holding on to God in utter disregard of appearances, the work will mightily succeed by the care and power of God. But we may work, worry and study, and use methods, and seem to gain a victory, but if it is not of God's planting we must see it all uprooted to our shame and disappointment and loss.

We need humbly to search our hearts before "Him with whom we have to do, for all things are naked and opened before his eyes." Heb. 4: 13. If our life is fully given up to glorify God then we may well rest and work in great confidence to see all that he has promised accomplished. It can not possibly turn out a failure and disappoint us. If we seek ends of our own and our own glory or ease or pleasure, in a carnal way, no difference how gratifying the results may seem, it is a failure and the ruin will fall down on us and cover us with the shame of failure. It will be rooted up. If it is your work drop it. If it is God's work go on with it in earnest, strong confidence, knowing that God will hear and help and prosper. Do like the man who went in the night to borrow three loaves of bread and staid till he got them.

Glenford, Ohio.

CONTENTMENT, founded on intelligent godliness, is the best and most enduring kind of riches.

### ENTHUSIASM.

You can do nothing without enthusiasm. You cannot carry on a charitable relief society or a political club with cold-blooded men.

The kingdom of God is more than a club. No enterprise depends so absolutely on the high enthusiasm of its members. It utilizes all kinds of power; but it succeeds in proportion as the mercury stands high in the thermometer. Its great captains have all been of the impassioned order. George Buchanan was the finest Scottish scholar in the sixteenth century; but it was fiery John Knox, and not the Latin writer, that recast Scotland.

Erasmus was the finest scholar anywhere of that century; but Luther led the European Reformation. It was not the learned Alexandrian Apollos that evangelized the Roman empire, but that inspired madman, St. Paul. History affords at every turn some impregnable fortress that was the despair of the wise and prudent, but was carried by some enthusiast with a rush. He cast his reputation, his life, his all into the breach, and his body made the bridge over which the race entered into its heritage.

Christian sentiment condemned the gladiatorial show, and a pseudo-Christian employer forbade it. But many were butchered to make a Roman holiday, till a monk, carried beyond control, flung himself into the arena and was stoned to death. He died, but the cruelty died with him. From the days of Talemachus until now the kingdom of heaven has been served by the violent, and the violent have carried it to victory.—*Ian Maclaren.*

### IMPERFECT CHRISTIANS.

The out and out Christian is a joyful Christian. The half and half Christian is the kind of Christian that a great many of you are—little acquainted with the joy of the Lord. Why should we live half way up the hill, and swathed in mists, when we might have an unclouded sky and a visible sun over our heads, if we would climb higher and walk in the light of his face?—*Alexander Maclaren, D. D.*

"I NEVER was fit,"—so said a great preacher—"to say a word to a sinner except when I had a broken heart myself, when I was subdued and melted into tenderness, and felt as though I had just received pardon to my own soul, and when my heart was full of tenderness and pity."—*Ex.*

BOLD, brave, true, honest men utter their solemn convictions in the fear of God, regardless of the wrath of men.